DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government is setting up a Tsunami and Storm Surges Warning System with the available expertise suited to India at an estimated cost of Rs. 125 crores with the following components :

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquake.
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modeling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.
- The establishment of a centre for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

(c) The system is expected to be operational in about $2^1/_2$ years.

Tsunami Warning System in Indian Ocean

1780. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whther it is a fact that the Government are thinking of setting up of Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the United Nations has come forward to help establish Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean;

(c) in what way, the United Nations would co-ordinate the setting up of Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Inter Governmental Oceanographic Commission of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it is

proposed to help establish a Tsunami Warning System for the entire Indian Ocean.

(c) The details are being worked out.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is setting up a Tsunami and Storm Surges Warning System at an estimated cost of Rs. 125 crores in about $2^1/_2$ years with the following components:

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate in near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquake.
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modeling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.
- The establishment of a centre for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

1781. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to organise Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas once in two years in place of holding it annually as is done presently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the other events that Government plans to organise specifically for PIOs and NRIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Other events would be planned by the Government in due course depending on the need and on the interest evinced by overseas Indians.